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**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB)
WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2003 - 0005 – DWQ**

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)
GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAS00000X**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs)
FOR
STORM WATER DISCHARGES FROM SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM
SEWER SYSTEMS (MS4s) (GENERAL PERMIT)**

SWRCB finds that:

1. Urban runoff is a leading cause of pollution throughout California.
2. Pollutants of concern found in urban runoff include sediments, non-sediment solids, nutrients, pathogens, oxygen-demanding substances, petroleum hydrocarbons, heavy metals, floatables, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), trash, and pesticides and herbicides.
3. During urban development, two important changes occur. First, where no urban development has previously occurred, natural vegetated pervious ground cover is converted to impervious surfaces such as paved highways, streets, rooftops, and parking lots. Natural vegetated soil can both absorb rainwater and remove pollutants providing a very effective purification process. Because pavement and concrete can neither absorb water nor remove pollutants, the natural purification characteristics of the land are lost. Second, urban development creates new pollutant sources as human population density increases and brings with it proportionately higher levels of vehicle emissions, vehicle maintenance wastes, municipal sewage, pesticides, household hazardous wastes, pet wastes, trash, etc., which can be washed into the MS4. As a result of these two changes, the runoff leaving a developed urban area may be significantly greater in volume, velocity, and/or pollutant load than pre-development runoff from the same area.
4. A higher percentage of impervious area correlates to a greater pollutant loading, resulting in turbid water, nutrient enrichment, bacterial contamination, organic matter loads, toxic compounds, temperature increases, and increases of trash or debris.
5. Pollutants present in storm water can have damaging effects on both human health and aquatic ecosystems. In addition, the increased flows and volumes of storm water discharged from impervious surfaces resulting from development can significantly impact beneficial uses of aquatic ecosystems due to physical modifications of watercourses, such as bank erosion and widening of channels.

6. When water quality impacts are considered during the planning stages of a project, new development and many redevelopment projects can more efficiently incorporate measures to protect water quality.
7. On December 8, 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated regulations under authority of the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 402(p)(6). These regulations require SWRCB to issue NPDES storm water permits to operators of small municipal separate storm sewer systems (Small MS4s) that discharge to waters of the U.S.
8. Of the Small MS4s defined by federal regulations, only “regulated Small MS4s” must obtain a permit. Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) section 122.32(a) describes regulated Small MS4s as those traditional Small MS4s located within an urbanized area as determined by the latest Decennial Census by the Bureau of the Census and other Small MS4s that are designated by the permitting authority in accordance with designation criteria in Findings 10 and 11 below. Traditional Small MS4s within urbanized areas (Attachment 1) are automatically designated and are not subject to the designation criteria provided in Finding 10.
9. Section 123.35(b) of 40 CFR requires SWRCB to develop a process, as well as criteria, to designate Small MS4s as regulated Small MS4s.
10. In developing the designation criteria, factors were chosen to include parameters that may affect water quality. The following criteria will be considered in designating Small MS4s operated within a city or county as regulated Small MS4s.
 - a. High population density – High population density means an area with greater than 1,000 residents per square mile. Also to be considered in this definition is a high density created by a non-residential population, such as tourists or commuters.
 - b. High growth or growth potential – If an area grew by more than 25 percent between 1990 and 2000, it is a high growth area. If an area anticipates a growth rate of more than 25 percent over a 10-year period ending prior to the end of the first permit term, it has high growth potential.
 - c. Significant contributor of pollutants to an interconnected permitted MS4 – A Small MS4 is interconnected with a separately permitted MS4 if storm water that has entered the Small MS4 is allowed to flow directly into a permitted MS4. In general, if the Small MS4 discharges more than 10 percent of its storm water to the permitted MS4, or its discharge makes up more than 10 percent of the other permitted MS4’s total storm water volume, it is a significant contributor of pollutants to the permitted MS4. In specific cases, the MS4s involved or third parties may show that the 10 percent threshold is inappropriate for the MS4 in question.
 - d. Discharge to sensitive water bodies – Sensitive water bodies are receiving waters, which are a priority to protect. They include the following:

- those listed as providing or known to provide habitat for threatened or endangered species;
- those used for recreation that are subject to beach closings or health warnings; or
- those listed as impaired pursuant to CWA section 303(d) due to constituents of concern in urban runoff (these include biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), sediment, pathogens, oil and grease, and other constituents that are found in the MS4 discharge).

Additional criteria to qualify as a sensitive water body may exist and may be used by SWRCB or RWQCB on a case-by-case basis.

- e. Significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the United States (U.S.) – Specific conditions presented by the MS4 may lead to significant pollutant loading to waters of the U.S. that are otherwise unregulated or inadequately regulated. An example of such a condition may be the presence of a large transportation industry.

This General Permit serves as notice to those Small MS4s on Attachment 2 that they are designated as regulated Small MS4s by the SWRCB at the time of permit adoption.

11. Section 122.26(b)(16)(iii) of 40 CFR defines systems that are similar to separate storm sewer systems in cities and counties, such as systems at military bases, large hospital or prison complexes, and highways and other thoroughfares as Small MS4s. In this General Permit these types of Small MS4s are referred to as non-traditional MS4s that may be designated as regulated Small MS4s and required to seek coverage under this General Permit or coverage under a separate permit. Non-traditional MS4s often operate storm sewers that are similar to traditional MS4s operated by cities or counties and discharge the same types of pollutants that are typically associated with urban runoff.
12. This permit does not designate any non-traditional MS4s. SWRCB or RWQCB may designate non-traditional MS4s at any time subsequent to the adoption of this General Permit. Non-traditional MS4s that may be designated at a future date include, but are not limited to, those listed in Attachment 3 of this General Permit.
13. Non-traditional Small MS4 entities that are designated, but whose entire facilities are subject to the NPDES General Permit for the Discharge of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities and whose Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) addresses all six Minimum Control Measures described in this General Permit, are not required to obtain coverage under this General Permit. Such entities must present documentation to the appropriate RWQCB, showing that they meet the requirements for exclusion from coverage.
14. This General Permit requires regulated Small MS4s (Permittees) to develop a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) and to protect water quality. Upon approval of SWMP by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or its Executive Officer,

the Permittees obtain coverage under this General Permit. This General Permit requires implementation of SWMP.

15. SWMP will be available for public review and comment and may be subject to a public hearing if requested prior to approval.
16. Permittees can satisfy the requirements through effective implementation of a SWMP, which must contain Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address six Minimum Control Measures. SWMP must incorporate measurable goals and time schedules of implementation.
17. The MEP standard is an ever-evolving, flexible, and advancing concept, which considers technical and economic feasibility. As knowledge about controlling urban runoff continues to evolve, so does that which constitutes MEP. Reducing the discharge of storm water pollutants to MEP in order to protect beneficial uses requires review and improvement, which includes seeking new opportunities. To do this, the Permittee must conduct and document evaluation and assessment of each relevant element of its program and revise activities, control measures, BMPs, and measurable goals, as necessary to meet MEP.
18. This General Permit includes Supplemental Provisions that apply to traditional and non-traditional Small MS4s serving a population of 50,000 people or more, or that are subject to high growth. These requirements address post-construction requirements and compliance with water quality standards. These Supplemental Provisions are similar to requirements for Medium and Large MS4s (Phase I), and are appropriate because larger Small MS4s are able to have more robust storm water programs and fast-growing Small MS4s may cause greater impacts to water quality.
19. The Receiving Water Limitations language contained in Attachment 4 is identical to the language established in SWRCB Water Quality Order WQ-99-05 adopted by the SWRCB on June 17, 1999. As interpreted in SWRCB Water Quality Order WQ-2001-15, adopted by the SWRCB on November 15, 2001, the receiving water limitations in this General Permit do not require strict compliance with water quality standards, but instead require compliance with water quality standards over time, through an iterative approach requiring improved BMPs.
20. The post-construction requirements, or Design Standards, contained in Attachment 4 are consistent with Order WQ-2000-11 adopted by SWRCB on October 5, 2000.
21. The purpose of the annual performance review is to evaluate (1) SWMP's effectiveness; (2) the implementation of SWMP (3) status of measurable goals; (4) effectiveness of BMPs; and (5) improvement opportunities to achieve MEP.
22. To apply for permit coverage authorizing storm water discharges to surface waters pursuant to this General Permit, the Permittees must submit a complete application package to the appropriate RWQCB. An application package includes a Notice of Intent

(NOI) to comply with the terms of this General Permit, appropriate fee (in accordance with the most recent fee schedule¹), and SWMP. Permittees relying entirely on separately permitted Separate Implementing Entities (SIEs) to implement their entire programs are not required to submit a SWMP if the SIE being relied on has an approved SWMP. Attachment 8 gives contact information for each RWQCB.

23. Upon receipt of a complete permit application, the application will be public noticed for thirty days on SWRCB's website. During the public notice period, a member of the public may request that a public hearing be conducted by RWQCB. If no public hearing is requested, the application may be approved by the RWQCB Executive Officer. Permittees obtain coverage under the General Permit only after the SWMP has been approved.
24. Each Permittee is individually responsible for adoption and enforcement of ordinances and/or policies, implementation of identified control measures/BMPs needed to prevent or reduce pollutants in storm water, and for allocation of funds for the capital, operation and maintenance, and enforcement expenditures necessary to implement and enforce such control measures/BMPs within its jurisdiction. Enforcement actions concerning this General Permit will be pursued only against the individual Permittee responsible for specific violations of this General Permit.
25. In accordance with 40 CFR section 122.28(b)(3), a RWQCB may issue an individual MS4 NPDES Permit to a Permittee otherwise subject to this General Permit, or adopt an alternative general permit that covers storm water discharges regulated by this General Permit. The applicability of this General Permit is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit or the date of approval for coverage under the alternative general permit.
26. Certain BMPs implemented or required by Permittees for urban runoff management may create a habitat for vectors (e.g., mosquitoes and rodents) if not properly designed or maintained. Close collaboration and cooperative effort between the Permittees, local vector control agencies, RWQCB staff, and the State Department of Health Services is necessary to identify and implement appropriate vector control measures that minimize potential nuisances and public health impacts resulting from vector breeding.
27. This General Permit may be reopened and modified if the decision in *Environmental Defense Center v. EPA* is revised or vacated.
28. This NPDES Permit is consistent with the antidegradation policies of 40 CFR section 131.12, SWRCB Resolution 68-16, and RWQCBs' individual Basin Plans. Implementing storm water quality programs that address the six Minimum Control Measures in previously unregulated areas will decrease the pollutant loading to the receiving waters and improve water quality.

¹ California Code of Regulations. Title 23. Division 3. Chapter 9 Waste Discharge Reports and Requirements. Article 1 Fees.

29. Following public notice in accordance with State and federal laws and regulations, SWRCB, in public hearings on December 2, 2002 and April 30, 2003, heard and considered all comments. SWRCB has prepared written responses to all significant comments.
30. This action to adopt an NPDES Permit is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code § 21100, et seq.) in accordance with section 13389 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne) (Division 7 of the California Water Code).
31. This NPDES Permit is in compliance with Part 402 of CWA and shall take effect 100 days after adoption by SWRCB. Once in effect, RWQCBs shall enforce the provisions herein.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that operators of Small MS4s subject to this General Permit shall comply with the following:

A. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Deadlines for Application

- a. By August 8, 2003, all Permittees automatically designated (see Attachment 1) must either apply for coverage under this General Permit (either individually or as a co-permittee), submit an application for an individual or alternative general Small MS4 permit (if applicable), or submit a joint application for modification of an existing large or medium MS4 permit (40 CFR §122.33(c)(1)).

Permittees that submitted complete application packages prior to the adoption of this General Permit to meet the federal regulation March 10, 2003 deadline have complied with this requirement and are not required to submit a duplicate application package.

- b. By October 27, 2003, traditional Small MS4s designated according to Finding 10 (see Attachment 2), must either apply for coverage under this General Permit (either individually or as a co-permittee), submit an application for an individual or alternative general Small MS4 permit, or submit a joint application for modification of an existing large or medium MS4 permit (40 CFR §122.33(c)(2)). Written notices will be sent to designated parties subsequent to adoption of this General Permit.
- c. Non-traditional Small MS4s, or other Small MS4s, which are designated by RWQCB or SWRCB after adoption of this General Permit must apply for coverage under this General Permit (either individually or as a co-

permittee), submit a complete application for an individual or alternative general Small MS4 permit, or submit a joint application for modification of an existing large or medium MS4 permit (40 CFR §122.33(c)(2)). Applications must be submitted within 180 days of designation unless a later date is provided in the designation letter.

2. General Permit Application

To obtain coverage under this General Permit, submit to the appropriate RWQCB a completed NOI (Attachment 7), a complete SWMP (one hard copy and one electronic copy in Word or PDF format), and appropriate fee. SWMP shall meet all the requirements of Section D of this General Permit. Permittees relying entirely on SIEs pursuant to Provision D.6 and permitted under the NPDES program are not required to submit a SWMP.

3. General Permit Coverage

Permit coverage will be in effect upon the completion of the following:

- a. The Permittee has submitted a complete permit application to the appropriate RWQCB,
- b. Receipt of a complete application is noticed for a minimum of 60 days and copies provided to the public for review and comment upon request,
- c. The proposed SWMP has been reviewed by RWQCB staff, and
- d. SWMP has been approved by the RWQCB Executive Officer, or approved by RWQCB in a public hearing, if requested.

B. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

1. Discharges of waste that are prohibited by Statewide Water Quality Control Plans or applicable Regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) are prohibited.
2. Discharges from the MS4s regulated under this General Permit that cause or threaten to cause nuisance are prohibited.
3. Discharges of material other than storm water to waters of the U.S. or another permitted MS4 must be effectively prohibited, except as allowed under Provision D.2.c, or as otherwise authorized by a separate NPDES permit.

C. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. Permittees must implement BMPs that reduce pollutants in storm water to the technology-based standard of MEP.
2. Storm water discharges regulated by this General Permit shall not contain a hazardous substance in amounts equal to or in excess of a reportable quantity listed in 40 CFR Part 117 or 40 CFR Part 302.

D. STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Permittee shall maintain, implement, and enforce an effective SWMP, and develop adequate legal authority to implement and enforce the SWMP, designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the permitted MS4 to MEP and to protect water quality. SWMP shall serve as the framework for identification, assignment, and implementation of control measures/BMPs. The Permittee shall implement SWMP and shall subsequently demonstrate its effectiveness and provide for necessary and appropriate revisions, modifications, and improvements to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges to the MEP. SWMP shall be fully implemented by the expiration of this General Permit, or within five years of designation for Small MS4s designated subsequent to Permit adoption, with reasonable progress made towards implementation throughout the term of the General Permit. Existing programs that have storm water quality benefits can be identified in the SWMP and be a part of a Permittee's storm water program.

SWMP shall be revised to incorporate any new or modified BMPs or measurable goals developed through the Permittee's annual reporting process. The Permittee shall incorporate changes required by or acceptable to the RWQCB Executive Officer into applicable annual revisions to SWMP and adhere to its implementation.

1. The Permittee shall maintain, implement, and enforce an effective SWMP designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the regulated Small MS4 to the MEP and to protect water quality.
2. SWMP must describe BMPs, and associated measurable goals, that will fulfill the requirements of the following six Minimum Control Measures.
 - a. **Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts**
The Permittee must implement a public education program to distribute educational materials to the community or conduct equivalent outreach activities about the impacts of storm water discharges on water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff. For non-traditional Permittees, the employee/user population may serve as "the public" to target for outreach and involvement.

Non-traditional Small MS4s that discharge into medium and large MS4 may integrate public education and outreach program with the existing MS4 public education and outreach programs.

b. **Public Involvement/Participation**

The Permittee must at a minimum comply with State and local public notice requirements when implementing a public involvement/participation program.

c. **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

The Permittee must:

- 1) Develop, implement, and enforce a program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges (as defined at 40 CFR §122.26(b)(2)) into the regulated Small MS4;
- 2) Develop, if not already completed, a storm sewer system map, showing the location of all outfalls and the names and locations of all waters of the U.S. that receive discharges from those outfalls;
- 3) To the extent allowable under State or local law, effectively prohibit, through ordinance, or other regulatory mechanism, non-storm water discharges into the MS4 and implement appropriate enforcement procedures and actions;
- 4) Develop and implement a plan to detect and address non-storm water discharges, including illegal dumping, to the system that are not authorized by a separate NPDES permit;
- 5) Inform public employees, businesses, and the general public of the hazards that are generally associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste; and
- 6) Address the following categories of non-storm water discharges or flows (i.e., authorized non-storm water discharges) only where they are identified as significant contributors of pollutants to the Small MS4:

1. water line flushing;
2. landscape irrigation;
3. diverted stream flows;
4. rising ground waters;
5. uncontaminated ground water infiltration (as defined at 40 CFR §35.2005(20)) to separate storm sewers;
6. uncontaminated pumped ground water;
7. discharges from potable water sources;
8. foundation drains;
9. air conditioning condensation;
10. irrigation water;
11. springs;
12. water from crawl space pumps;
13. footing drains;
14. lawn watering;
15. individual residential car washing;
16. flows from riparian habitats and wetlands; and
17. dechlorinated swimming pool discharges.

Discharges or flows from fire fighting activities are excluded from the effective prohibition against non-storm water and need only be addressed where they are identified as significant sources of pollutants to waters of the U.S.

If a RWQCB Executive Officer determines that any individual or class of non-storm water discharge(s) listed above may be a significant source of pollutants to waters of the U.S. or physically interconnected MS4, or poses a threat to water quality standards (beneficial uses), the RWQCB Executive Officer may require the appropriate Permittee(s) to monitor and submit a report and to implement BMPs on the discharge.

d. **Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control**

The Permittee must develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in any storm water runoff to the Small MS4 from construction activities that result in a land disturbance of greater than or equal to one acre. Reduction of storm water discharges from construction activity disturbing less than one acre must be included in your program if that construction activity is part of a larger common plan of development or sale that would disturb one acre or more. The program must include the development and implementation of, at a minimum:

- 1) An ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to require erosion and sediment controls, as well as sanctions, or other effective mechanisms, to ensure compliance, to the extent allowable under State, or local law;

- 2) Requirements for construction site operators to implement appropriate erosion and sediment control BMPs;
- 3) Requirements for construction site operators to control waste such as discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter, and sanitary waste at the construction site that may cause adverse impacts to water quality;
- 4) Procedures for site plan review which incorporate consideration of potential water quality impacts;
- 5) Procedures for receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public; and
- 6) Procedures for site inspection and enforcement of control measures.

e. **Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment**

The Permittee must:

- 1) Develop, implement, and enforce a program to address storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment projects that disturb greater than or equal to one acre, including projects less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale, that discharge into the Small MS4 by ensuring that controls are in place that would prevent or minimize water quality impacts;
- 2) Develop and implement strategies, which include a combination of structural and/or non-structural BMPs appropriate for your community;
- 3) Use an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to address post-construction runoff from new development and redevelopment projects to the extent allowable under State or local law. For those Small MS4s described in Supplemental Provision E below, the requirements must at least include the design standards contained in Attachment 4 of this General Permit or a functionally equivalent program that is acceptable to the appropriate RWQCB; and
- 4) Ensure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of BMPs.

The General Permit does not require redesign of K-12 school or community college facilities that have been submitted to the Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect before adoption of the permit, and which receive final approval from the State Allocation Board or the Public Works Board, as appropriate, on or before December 31, 2004.

f. **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations**

The Permittee must:

- 1) Develop and implement an operation and maintenance program that includes a training component and has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations; and
 - 2) Using training materials that are available from U.S. EPA, the State, or other organizations, the program must include employee training to prevent and reduce storm water pollution from activities such as park and open space maintenance, fleet building maintenance, new construction and land disturbances, and storm water system maintenance.
3. SWMP must identify the measurable goals for each of the BMPs, including, as appropriate, the months and years for scheduled actions, including interim milestones and the frequency of the action.
 4. SWMP must identify the person or persons who will implement or coordinate SWMP, as well as each Minimum Control Measure.
 5. Termination of coverage

A Permittee may terminate coverage if a new operator has assumed responsibility for the MS4, the Permittee has ceased operation of the MS4, or the Permittees has eliminated discharges from the MS4. To terminate coverage, the Permittee must submit a written request to the RWQCB.

6. Reliance on a SIE

The Permittee may rely on a SIE to satisfy one or more of the permit obligations, if the separate entity can appropriately and adequately address the storm water issues of the Permittee. The Permittee must describe the arrangement in the SWMP and the arrangement is subject to the approval of the RWQCB Executive Officer. The other entity must agree to implement the control measure(s), or components thereof, to achieve compliance with the General Permit. The Permittee remains responsible for compliance with this General Permit if the SIE fails to implement the control measure(s).

If the Permittee relies on an SIE to implement all six Minimum Control Measures and the SIE also has a storm water permit issued by SWRCB or RWQCB, the Permittee relying on the SIE must still submit an NOI, appropriate fee, and certification of the arrangement. The Permittee must note this fact in the NOI and provide proof that the SIE has an approved SWMP, but is not required to maintain a SWMP nor submit annual reports.

7. Outfalls not identified in the storm sewer system map required by Provision D.2.c.2), but constructed within the permitted area during the term of this General Permit to receiving waters identified in the NOI, shall not be considered a material change in character, location, or volume of the permitted discharge, and shall be allowed under the terms of this General Permit without permit application or permit modification, provided that the following information be provided in the subsequent annual report:
 - a. Receiving water name;
 - b. Storm sewer system map of added area;
 - c. Certification that SWMP shall be amended to include the drainage area.

E. SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

Those regulated traditional and non-traditional Small MS4s serving a population over 50,000 or that are subject to high growth (at least 25 percent over ten years) must comply with the requirements in Attachment 4 of this General Permit. Compliance is required upon full implementation of the Small MS4s' storm water management plan.

Attachment 5 provides a list of communities that SWRCB anticipates being subject to the provisions in Attachment 4.

F. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MONITORING

1. Reporting

The Permittee must submit annual reports to the appropriate RWQCB by September 15th of each year (for Small MS4s designated with the adoption of this permit, the first annual report is to be submitted in 2004), or as otherwise required by the RWQCB Executive Officer, unless exempted under Provision D.6. The report shall summarize the activities performed throughout the reporting period (July 1 through June 30) and must include:

- a. The status of compliance with permit conditions;
- b. An assessment of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the identified BMPs;
- c. Status of the identified measurable goals;
- d. Results of information collected and analyzed, including monitoring data, if any, during the reporting period;

- e. A summary of the storm water activities the Permittee plans to undertake during the next reporting cycle;
 - f. Any proposed change(s) to SWMP along with a justification of why the change(s) are necessary; and
 - g. A change in the person or persons implementing and coordinating SWMP.
2. RWQCB may impose additional monitoring requirements, which may include a reporting component. RWQCBs may adopt such requirements on an individual or group basis.
 3. Recordkeeping

The Permittee must keep records required by this General Permit for at least five years or the duration of the General Permit if continued. The RWQCB Executive Officer may specify a longer time for record retention. The Permittee must submit the records to the RWQCB Executive Officer upon request. The Permittee must make the records, including the permit and SWMP, available to the public during regular business hours.

G. RWQCB AUTHORITIES

RWQCBs will review and approve SWMPs prior to permit coverage being in effect and will conduct public hearings of individual permit applications upon request. Where there is no hearing, the Executive Officer may approve the SWMP. RWQCBs will also oversee compliance with this General Permit. Oversight may include, but is not limited to, reviewing reports, requiring modification to SWMPs and other submissions, imposing region-specific monitoring requirements, conducting inspections, taking enforcement actions against violators of this General Permit, and making additional designations of Permittees pursuant with the criteria described in this General Permit and Fact Sheet. The RWQCBs may also issue individual permits to regulated Small MS4s, and alternative general permits to categories of regulated Small MS4s. Upon issuance of such permits by an RWQCB, this General Permit shall no longer regulate the affected Small MS4(s).

H. STANDARD PROVISIONS

1. General Authority

Three of the minimum control measures (illicit discharge detection and elimination, and the two construction-related measures) require enforceable controls on third party activities to ensure successful implementation of the measure. Some non-traditional operators, however, may not have the necessary legal regulatory authority to adopt these enforceable controls. As in the case of

local governments that lack such authority, non-traditional MS4s are expected to utilize the authority they do possess and to seek cooperative arrangements.

2. Duty to Comply

The Permittee must comply with all of the conditions of this General Permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of CWA and the Porter-Cologne and is grounds for enforcement action and/or removal from General Permit coverage. In the event that the Permittee is removed from coverage under the General Permit, the Permittee will be required to seek coverage under an individual or alternative general permit.

3. General Permit Actions

This General Permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the Permittee for a General Permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not nullify any General Permit condition.

If any toxic effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) is promulgated under section 307(a) of CWA for a toxic pollutant which is present in the discharge and that standard or prohibition is more stringent than any limitation on the pollutant in this General Permit, this General Permit shall be modified or revoked and reissued to conform to the toxic effluent standard or prohibition and Permittee so notified.

4. Noncompliance Reporting

Permittees who cannot certify compliance and/or who have had other instances of noncompliance shall notify the appropriate RWQCB within 30 days. Instances of noncompliance resulting in emergencies (i.e., that endanger human health or the environment) shall be reported orally to the RWQCB within 24 hours from the time the discharger becomes aware of the circumstance and in writing to the RWQCB within five days of the occurrence. The notification shall identify the noncompliance event and an initial assessment of any impact caused by the event, describe the actions necessary to achieve compliance, and include a time schedule indicating when compliance will be achieved. The time schedule and corrective measures are subject to modification by the RWQCB Executive Officer.

5. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense

It shall not be a defense for the Permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this General Permit.

6. Duty to Mitigate

The Permittee shall take all responsible steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this General Permit that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

7. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The Permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain any facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this General Permit and with the requirements of SWMP. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. Proper operation and maintenance may require the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems installed by the Permittee when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this General Permit.

8. Property Rights

This General Permit does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor does it authorize any infringement of federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

9. Duty to Provide Information

The Permittee shall furnish RWQCB, SWRCB, or U.S. EPA, during normal business hours, any requested information to determine compliance with this General Permit. The Permittee shall also furnish, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this General Permit.

10. Inspection and Entry

The Permittee shall allow RWQCB, SWRCB, U.S. EPA, or an authorized representative of RWQCB, SWRCB, or U.S. EPA, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

- a. Enter upon the Permittee's premises during normal business hours where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this General Permit;
- b. Access and copy, during normal business hours, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this General Permit within a reasonable time from notification;

- c. Inspect during normal business hours any municipal facilities; and
- d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times for the purpose of assuring General Permit compliance.

11. Signatory Requirements

All NOIs, SWMPs, certifications, reports, or other information prepared in accordance with this General Permit submitted to SWRCB or RWQCB shall be signed by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or duly authorized representative. The principal executive officer of a Federal agency includes the chief executive officer of the agency or the senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency (e.g., Regional Administrator of U.S. EPA).

12. Certification

Any person signing documents under Section H.11 above shall make the following certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete.

I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

13. Anticipated Noncompliance

The Permittee will give advance notice to the RWQCB and local storm water management agency of any planned changes in the regulated Small MS4 activity that may result in noncompliance with General Permit requirements.

14. Penalties for Falsification of Reports

Section 309(c)(4) of CWA provides that any person who knowingly makes any false material statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this General Permit, including reports of compliance or noncompliance, shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than two years or by both.

15. Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions

- a. Part 309 of CWA provides significant penalties for any person who violates a permit condition implementing Parts 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of CWA or any permit condition or limitation implementing any such section in a permit issued under Part 402. Any person who violates any permit condition of this General Permit is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$27,500 per calendar day of such violation, as well as any other appropriate sanction provided by Part 309 of CWA.
- b. Porter-Cologne also provides for administrative, civil, and criminal penalties, which in some cases are greater than those under CWA.

16. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this General Permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action against the Permittee or relieve the Permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the Permittee is or may be subject to under Part 311 of CWA.

17. Severability

The provisions of this General Permit are severable; and, if any provision of this General Permit or the application of any provision of this General Permit to any circumstance is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances and the remainder of this General Permit shall not be affected thereby.

18. Reopener Clause

This General Permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause due to promulgation of amended regulations, or otherwise in accordance with 40 CFR sections 122.62, 122.63, 122.64, and 124.5.

19. Availability

A copy of this General Permit and SWMP shall be made available for public review.

20. Transfers

This General Permit is not transferable. A Permittee must submit written notification to the appropriate RWQCB to terminate coverage of this General Permit.

21. Continuation of Expired Permit

This General Permit expires five years from the date of adoption. This General Permit continues in force and in effect until a new General Permit is issued or the SWRCB rescinds this General Permit. Only those Small MS4s authorized to discharge under the expiring General Permit are covered by the continued General Permit.

CERTIFICATION

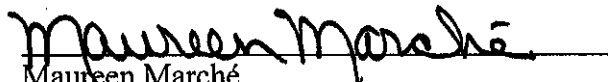
The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of SWRCB held on April 30, 2003.

AYE: Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.
Peter S. Silva
Richard Katz
Gary M. Carlton

NO: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None


Maureen Marché
Clerk to the Board